

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 141115Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6427

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KABUL 0253

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, AF, PK, UR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH ARMS FOR PAKISTAN (?) AND SOVIET ARMS FOR AFGHANISTAN

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 0163; (B) ISLAMABAD 0306; (C) USDAO ISLAMABAD

070315Z JAN 74; (D) STATE 002423

SUMMARY: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH ON JANUARY 12 STRESSED

CONCERN OVER REPORTED PAK-FRENCH ARMS DEAL. WITH REGARD TO AFGHANISTAN'S ARMS BUILD-UP, ABDULLAH SAID THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO "MAJOR" NEW ARRANGEMENTS. ACTION REQUESTED: MORE INFORMATION ON PAK-FRENCH ARMS DEAL AND DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AS TO WHAT MORE I SHOULD TELL GOA ABOUT IT. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING COURSE OF TOUR D'HORIZON WITH DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH ON JANUARY 12, HE MENTIONED REPORTS OF A TRILATERAL DEAL UNDER WHICH PAKISTAN, WITH FINANCIAL AID FROM PERSIAN GULF STATES, WOULD OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM FRANCE TO SET UP MUNITIONS PLANTS IN
SECRET

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PAKISTAN, INCLUDING FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MIRAGE AIRCRAFT. HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AT WHAT HE NATURALLY TERMED THIS UNHELPFUL INVOLVEMENT OF THE FRENCH IN THIS REGION AND SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE ABOUT IT. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT ONE OF HIS SOURCES ON THIS MATTER HAS BEEN THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR.

2. I TOLD ABDULLAH THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME WHETHER REPORTS OF SUCH A DEAL ARE ACCURATE BUT THAT I WOULD SEE WHAT I COULD LEARN WHICH I COULD SHARE WITH HIM.

3. I THEN SAID TO ABDULLAH THAT WE HAD HEARD REPORTS EMANATING FROM PAKISTAN OF LARGE SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES TO AFGHANISTAN. I SAID I THOUGHT THESE REPORTS WERE EXAGGERATED AND DID NOT WANT TO PRY INTO AFGHANISTAN'S MILITARY SECRETS, BUT I WONDERED IF HE CARED TO COMMENT. ABDULLAH RESPONDED BY REFERRING TO PRESIDENT DAOUD'S DESCRIPTION TO CHARGE LEWIS OF AFGHANISTAN'S ARMS POLICY (KABUL 7332, OCTOBER 16, 1973). HE STRESSED THAT, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD GREATLY PREFER TO SPEND ITS RESOURCES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOA HAD NO CHOICE, IN LIGHT OF PAKISTAN'S POLICIES, BUT TO IMPROVE ITS MILITARY CAPABILITIES. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT INVOLVED NO RPT NO "MAJOR" NEW ARRANGEMENTS. HE ALSO TOOK A CRACK IN THIS CONNECTION AT THE PRC, NOT ONLY FOR ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN BUT ALSO FOR ITS UNSPECIFIED MEDDLING IN INTERNAL AFGHAN AFFAIRS.

4. COMMENT. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON PAK-FRENCH DEAL IN ADDITION TO REFS A, B AND C AND ALSO DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AS TO WHAT MORE I MIGHT TELL GOA ABOUT ANY SUCH DEAL. AS FAR AS SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES TO AFGHANISTAN ARE CONCERNED, I BELIEVE I HAVE GONE AS FAR AS I SHOULD FOR TIME BEING AT SENIOR AFGHAN LEVEL PURSUANT TO REF D. WE WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT OBTAIN HARD INFORMATION ON ACTUAL AMOUNTS FROM OTHER SOURCES. PLEASE NOTE THAT ACCORDING TO ABDULLAH, THE INDIANS SEEM TO KEEP HIM INFORMED ABOUT PAKISTAN'S ARMS POLICY, WHICH MAKES ME QUESTION STILL MORE (SEE KABUL 8748) WHETHER INDIANS WOULD OR COULD BE HELPFUL IN SLOWING RATE OF AFGHAN ARMS BUILD-UP.
ELIOT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY SALES, ARMS SHIPMENTS, ARMS PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KABUL00253
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750001-1695
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740174/abbrzavg.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: (A) ISLAMABAD 0163; (B) ISLAMABAD 0306; (C) USDAO ISLAMABAD 070315Z JAN 74; (D) STATE 002423
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Jul-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH ARMS FOR PAKISTAN (?) AND SOVIET ARMS FOR AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, AF, PK, UR, FR
To: STATE INFO ISLAMABAD
LONDON
MOSCOW
NEW DELHI
PARIS
TEHRAN
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005